

SPORTS DEAT

BY BILL JOHNSON



Melvin Condell Hoover

Is Post's "Player Of The Week"

By James Cuthbertson
Post Staff Writer

Horace Greeley's old adage was "Go West Young Man" and for some aspiring young athletes the adage still holds true today as the big universities such as California, Arizona State, UCLA, Colorado, and Southern California use the lures of sunshine and excitement to recruit the best stars in the Southland.

When asked where he would attend college this week's Player of the Week, Melvin Condell Hoover of North Mecklenburg High School, said he would choose either Tulane or Arizona State. He is also leaning in the direction of the Sun Devils of Tempe, Arizona.

"Arizona State will be in the Pac-8 (Pacific Coast Athletic Conference) next year and I want to get a chance to play in the Rose Bowl," said the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Withers, who will



Melvin Hoover
...Cage standout

make a trip to Tempe, Arizona sometime in the next two weeks to look over the campus.

Melvin, who averages 12 points and five rebounds per game coming off the bench was the primary reason his team beat Olympic's Trojans for the first time in nine

meetings last week in the Olympic Invitational Tournament.

Although he scored only eight points in the game, five of them came in overtime. His three-point play with 41 seconds left gave the Vikings a 64-59 lead enroute to their final 66-61 victory.

"I believe the team is ready now," Hoover said. "I felt real good about beating Olympic. We had a 15 point lead on them last year and lost by one point earlier this year. We will go all the way now."

The Vikings' biggest opposition will be Garinger and South, said the star, who predicts the Vikings will be one of the league's representatives in the state tournament in Greensboro.

Other stars last week were Jack Planter of Independence who scored 20 points in his team's 78-71 win over Myers Park for the championship of the Myers Park tournament and Onda Richardson of Olympic, who scored 21 points against North and 19 against Harding to lead his Trojans to second place in the tourney.

WBTV To Telecast UNCC -

Appalachian State Game

WBTV is making plans to telecast a basketball game which is shaping up to be one of the hottest regional confrontations of the 1976-77 season.

The January 19th contest in Boone, N.C. between Appalachian State and UNC-Charlotte is scheduled to air on Channel 3 at 7 p.m. But, station officials say the telecast depends on putting together an unprecedented combination of technical facilities to beam the signal from Boone back to Charlotte.

WBTV's Broadcast Operations Manager, John Edgerton, says conventional television lines do not extend to Boone, and cost estimates for installing them are prohibitive. Therefore, WBTV Technical Operations Manager, George Reynolds, and his staff have set about finding ways to adapt the station's modern micro-wave equipment normally used for news gathering to accomplish this task.

"There is no guarantee of success," says Edgerton, "but we are determined to try to make it work." One factor which could present a problem

would be heavy snow or dense fog conditions on the night of the game, which would affect the microwave beam.

Appalachian State Athletic Director James F. Jones and Coach Bobby Cremins have agreed to schedule the game

to begin shortly after 7 p.m., enabling WBTV to put together two of the key basketball games of the regular season on the same night.

Jim Thacker, WBTV Sports Director, will provide the play-by-play for the ACC contest.

WEEK IN BASKETBALL

WHERE THEY PLAY

Friday, January 7
Virginia St. at Fayetteville
Elizabeth City at Campbell
N.C. Central, Shaw,
St. Paul, St. Augustine's
at Capital Classic

Saturday, January 8
Shaw (Detroit) at Howard
Delaware at Lincoln
S.C. State at A&T
Hampton at Virginia Union
Norfolk St. at Winston-Salem

Monday, January 10
UMES at Stockton State
A&T at Western Carolina

Norfolk St. at J.C. Smith
Livingstone at Fayetteville
St. Augustine's at Eliz. City
Winston-Salem at St. Paul's
Atlantic Christian at Shaw

Tuesday, January 11
Delaware State at King's
Wednesday, January 12
Virginia Union at St. Paul's
J.C. Smith at Shaw
Livingstone at Winston-Salem
Hampton at Elizabeth City
Norfolk State at Howard
St. Augustine's at Virginia St.
Morgan at UMES
S.C. State at UNC-Wilmington

Preps Face Heavy Schedule

With the holiday break and a couple of prep tournaments behind them, local high school basketball teams will get back to work Friday night with five big contests scheduled.

The top attraction will pit the Garinger Wildcats against the Olympic Trojans in a battle for first place in the Southwestern 4-A Conference.

Other games on tap Friday night will match Harding with North at North while Myers Park travels to Independence

and West journeys to South Mecklenburg.

Each high school contest tips-off at 8 p.m., following a preliminary contest.

Garinger will make a rare appearance Saturday night when the Wildcats host Bowman High School of Wadesboro.

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NOBODY ASKED ME, BUT.....

The pro football playoffs didn't come off the tubes in an impressive manner a couple of Sundays ago. The injury-jinx were more than cruel to the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the L.A. Rams and the Minnesota Vikings gave the impression that they had played enough football for one year.

The results pit the uninspired Oakland Raiders against the reckless Minnesota Vikings in what should prove exciting action. The feeling here is that Fran Tarkenton and Church Foreman will prove too much for Oakland to handle.

Word from Greensboro is that the MEAC has added a couple of great attractions to its annual Basketball Tournament at the Greensboro Coliseum, February 24-26. The Howard University gymnastics team and the Creative Dance Group of North Carolina A&T, both crowd pleasers, are scheduled to perform during the halftime breaks.

If given the opportunity to select only one back as the greatest in professional football, based on contribution to his team, this reporter, would choose Chuck Foreman over O.J. Simpson or Franco Harris.

You'd never guess who is leading the CIAA basketball teams in team defense! It's the run-and-shoot Spartans of Norfolk State, who come to town Monday night to clash with the Golden Bulls of Johnson C. Smith University.

The rumor-mill has Tony Dorsett asking for the most money ever paid to a college player when he signs with a NFL team later this year...Even more than Joe Namath's reportedly \$900,000 or O.J.'s \$2.5 million.

I find it difficult to believe that basketball star Walt Frazier has a refrigerator, containing teacher's scotch and cheddar cheese in the back seat of his limousine. The older dudes had a better idea!

Joe Louis has a point. The ex-heavyweight champ was quoted recently, "I think Ali would have been smart to quit after he regained the title!"

But you didn't realize that a person who doesn't read is no better-off than the person who can't read!

The Trojans of Virginia State must be for REAL. In addition to heading up the conference northern division standings, VSC is the CIAA's top team in team offense, team rebounds and team field goal percentage.

A call from Bob Moorman, the CIAA Commissioner, informs that there are attractive rooms available at the Omni International Hotel in Norfolk, Va. "Only 30 minutes away from the Hampton Coliseum," Bob explains. The Omni is THE HOTEL in the area.

Would you like to try my favorite Christmas turkey stuffing recipe? It contains two secret ingredients...hennessey and soda!

George Foreman, the man who lost the heavyweight title to Muhammad Ali, has purchased a ranch in Texas.

A.B. Williamson, head basketball coach at Howard University, must be grinning all the way down 14th Street. MEAC experts thought S.C. State and N.C. Central would be the teams to beat in the race for the conference championship.

Once the shooting started, neither S.C. State nor NCCU could buy a victory while Williamson's Bisons were zooming to the top of the standings with a perfect record.

Marshall Emery is off to a slow start in his first season as head basketball coach at Delaware State. S.C. State football season superlatives through 10 games show the Bulldogs gave their best performance against Johnson C. Smith.

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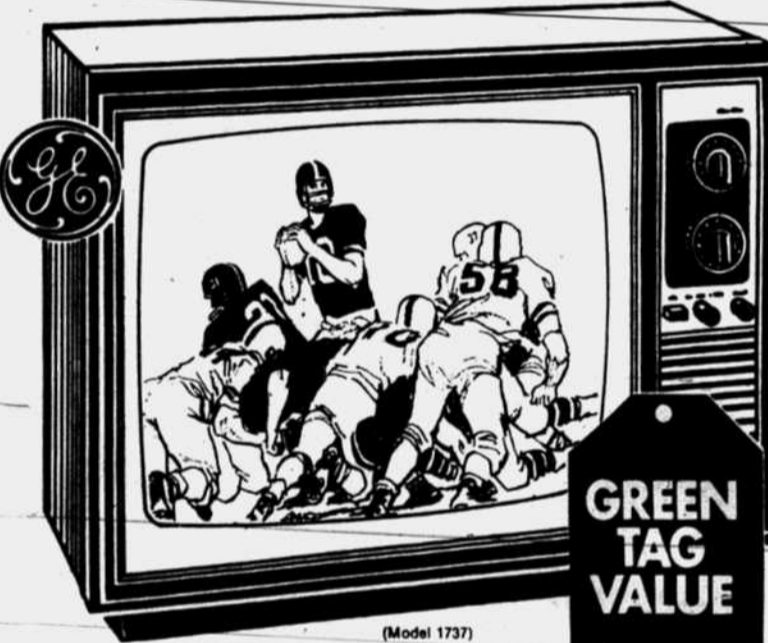
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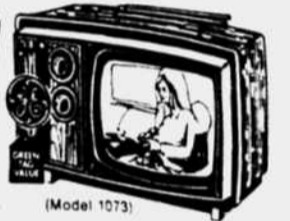
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